

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
STRATEGIC FORCES**



**TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mike Lewis [Everett] (202) 225-5440
Kira Maas [Reyes] (202) 225-4831

**STRATEGIC FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EVERETT AND RANKING MEMBER
REYES URGE QUICK RESOLUTION OF RECURRING SECURITY BREACHES AT LOS
ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

*Everett and Reyes Urge Action During Meeting with Undersecretary Brooks Wednesday and in Letter to
Secretary Abraham*

Hearing to Address Security Lapses Planned

WASHINGTON – House Strategic Forces Subcommittee Chairman Terry Everett, R-Alabama, and Ranking Member Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, have personally urged Undersecretary of Energy for National Security Linton Brooks to quickly resolve recurring security lapses at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Brooks, Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, briefed Everett and Reyes Wednesday on the Los Alamos security breakdown.

“There is an ongoing culture at Los Alamos that security procedures are an unnecessary nuisance and can be ignored,” Chairman Everett said. “The American public cannot understand how such flagrant disregard for the security of our nuclear laboratories can occur. In addition to firing those found responsible for these security violations, if appropriate, I believe that a criminal investigation should also be conducted.”

Ranking Member Reyes observed, “Frankly, I have run out of patience on this issue. Our investment in the vital work being done at Los Alamos is considerable in terms of money and responsibility. Accountability, when our country’s safety and security is at stake, must be priority one.”

Today, Everett and Reyes sent a letter to Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham expressing “grave concern and disappointment over the reports of missing classified electronic media” at Los Alamos and urging the termination of those responsible.

“Exercising our oversight responsibilities, our subcommittee visited Los Alamos in January specifically to get an update on laboratory security practices following revelations of security breaches

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late last year. We are deeply concerned that those efforts taken earlier this year have apparently been ineffective in addressing serious security violations,” Everett and Reyes wrote.

“We expect the Department to conduct a complete and swift investigation, including the use of polygraph examinations as part of the investigation process,” the letter continued. “We also urge the Department to strongly consider termination of employment for those individuals found responsible for security lapses, and their supervisors where appropriate.”

Regarding the status of National Laboratory contract, the letter advised, “As the Los Alamos contract competition process moves forward, the ability of a contractor to meet laboratory security requirements should be a key factor in the contract award.”

The Everett-Reyes letter concluded, “Our subcommittee will be closely following the investigation and corrective actions for security infractions at not just Los Alamos, but at the other national laboratories and sites as well. We plan to convene a future hearing that will address these security lapses.”

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